

Authenticity of the Holy Bible

Unity Within Diversity

- ❖ The Bible has 72 books written by 45 authors (including deuterocanonical) written over the span of 1500 years, yet has no contradictions and has the universal theme of man's sin, God's redemption and His love for us
- ❖ Some of these writers were mere fishermen, others were kings and physicians.
- ❖ Nine New Testament authors were eyewitnesses for what they were writing

*"For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty."
(2 Peter 1:16)*

Examples of Historical Proof

- ❖ Thallus (Samaritan historian 55 A.D.) recounted the earthquake and darkness that took place during the crucifixion of Christ which corroborates with Mark 15:33
- ❖ Tacitus (56-117AD), Roman senator, wrote about Christ being crucified under Pontius Pilate
- ❖ Lucian of Samosata (125-180 A.D.) also details the crucifixion of Christ
- ❖ Jewish Historian Josephus (37-97A.D.) wrote in *Testimonium Flavianum*:

"About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah. When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing among us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not cease. On the third day he appeared to them restored to life. For the prophets of God had prophesied these and myriads of other marvelous things about him.."



About Coptic Orthodoxy:

The Coptic Orthodox Church is based on the teachings of Saint Mark, who brought Christianity to Egypt during the reign of Emperor Nero a dozen years after the Lord's ascension. He was one of the four evangelists and wrote the oldest canonical gospel. The Church's canons and traditions have been preserved from the apostles for over nineteen centuries.

"What's really neat about the Orthodox Church is that it's like walking back in time 2,000 years to the time of the Apostles, when they created these services. You walk into that and it's really like...living it. They have maintained the truth ever since the beginning."

-Troy Polamalu, Pittsburgh Steelers

Got Questions?

Email us at copticof@eden.rutgers.edu

We'd love to hear from you!

Jesus Awareness Day
2011

FIND LOVE. FIND PURPOSE. FIND TRUTH.



" 'And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you' says the Lord"

-Jeremiah 29:13-14

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What do Christians Believe?

The Bible describes God as an Almighty and Eternal being who created the universe. It states that since the beginning the punishment for sin is death, and when mankind sinned, we were deserving of death. God loved His creation so much that He could not bear to condemn us. Instead, He was incarnate as a man., suffered, and was crucified to serve as a perfect sacrifice to redeem us for our sins.. Three days later, He rose from the dead and ascended into the heavens and we await His second and glorious coming where He will grant the righteous eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Q: Don't Christians believe in three Gods?

A: No. Absolutely not. The Bible teaches that God exists in the Holy Trinity, in which The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit are three hypostases of ONE God.

Q: How is that possible?

A: The Holy Trinity can be tangibly conceived through the example of fire. Fire consists of a flame that radiates light and heat. The flame, the light, and the heat are three inseparable entities of the fire. Likewise, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three inseparable hypostases of ONE God.

Prophecies fulfilled by Christ

- ❖ There are over 2000 prophecies in the Holy Bible
- ❖ 300 prophecies about the first coming of Christ have been fulfilled.

Some Examples:

❖ Virgin Birth:

Old Testament: Isaiah 7:14, written 740-680 B.C.

New Testament: Luke 1:26-34

❖ Born in Bethlehem:

OT: Micah 5:2, written 700 B.C.

NT: Matthew 2:1

❖ The Messiah will perform miracles:

OT: *“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing.”* (Isaiah 35:5-6), written 740-680 B.C.

NT: Matthew 15:30-31

❖ Betrayed for Thirty pieces of silver:

OT: (Zechariah 11:12-13), written 518-516 B.C.

NT: (Matthew 27:6-7)

❖ Spat on and Struck:

OT: *“I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.”* (Isaiah 50:6) written 740-680 B.C.

NT: (Matthew 26:67 & 27:30)

❖ Crucifixion:

OT: *“they pierced my hands and my feet.”*

(Psalm 22:16), written 1018 BC

NT: (John 20:27)

❖ Resurrection:

OT: (Hosea 6:2), written 710 B.C.

NT: (Matt 28:5-6)

Basic Bible Teachings

The Greatest Commandment:

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. The second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

Love Your Enemies:

“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:44)

Do Not Judge Others:

“Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” (Luke 6:37)

The Golden Rule

“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:12)

Focus on Spirituality

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19)

Heavenly Reward

“ Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)